S1527-3

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

AREA LABOR SUMMARY

THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DATA FOR MARCH 1991 MAY 1991

Unemployment Rates Decline in March but Job Losses Continue

Labor Force

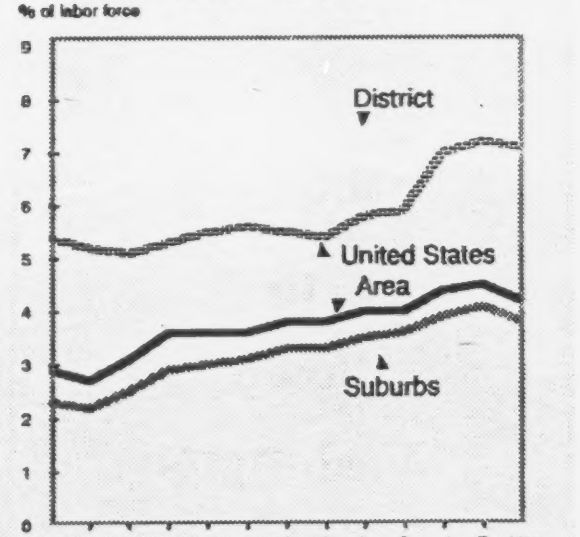
Unemployment rates across the Washington Metropolitan Area dropped in March. In the Area, the rate declined from 4.5 percent of the labor force in February to 4.2 percent in March. In the suburbs, the rate also declined three-tenths of a percentage point, dropping from 4.1 percent to 3.8 percent. In the District, the decline was half a percentage point, falling from 7.4 percent in February to 6.9 percent in March. Compared to March of last year, Washington Area unemployment rates are significantly higher this March—1.8 percentage points in the suburbs, 1.6 points in the Area and 0.6 point in the District. These over-the-year measurements reflect the sharp decline in local business activity during the past year.

In March, the unadjusted unemployment rate of all civilian workers in the United States was 7.1 percent, down from 7.2 percent in February. Over the year, the U.S. rate was up by 1.7 percentage points, about the same as in the Washington Area. March marked the first time in thirteen months that the District's rate fell below the rate for all American workers.

The District

The February-to-March labor market changes in the District were all positive—the labor force grew, while employment expanded even more. Thus, both the level of joblessness and the unemployment rate were pushed lower. During March, 1,900 District residents entered the labor market. Local employers hired 3,000 workers, thereby absorbing the net March addition to the labor supply. Some 1,600 additional jobless residents withdrew from the unemployment roster. These positive movements produced the significant March drop in the jobless rate of half of a percentage point.

Unemployment Rates
March 1990 - March 1991



Traditionally, the District's unemployment rate declines between February and March. During the past

Continued on page 3

Government of the District of Columbia
Sharon Pratt Dixon
Mayor

Department of Employment Services
Maria Borrero
Director

The Department of Employment Services

Working to keep Washington working.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

AREA LABOR SUMMARY

THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DATA FOR MARCH 1991 MAY 1991

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The *Area Labor Summary* is published monthly by the D.C. Department of Employment Services, 500 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. The Labor Market Information and Research Staff (Richard Groner, Chief) prepares the *Summary*. The following staff members have contributed to the publication and development of data herein: Charles Roeslin, Rufus Daniels, Eileen Dent, Nancy Anderson-Grant, Elsie Taylor, and Gwendolyn Thompson, and administrative support was provided by Robin McDonald.

Inquiries and requests for labor market information may be obtained by writing to the above address, or by calling (202) 639-1641 or 639-1642.

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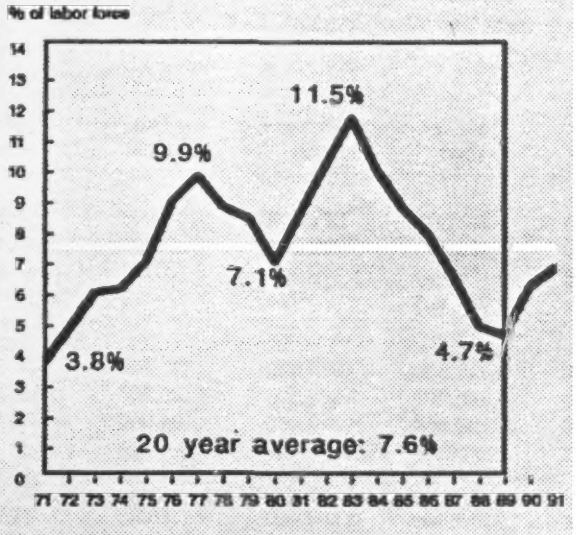
14 years, the District's rate in March has fallen 11 times and has risen only 3 times. Thus, this March's movement reflects the expected seasonal pattern.

The March statistics clearly demonstrate the impact of recessionary declines in Area business activities during the past year. Between March 1990 and March 1991, the District's labor force lost 17,300 workers, a significant decline of 5.7 percent. This shrinkage in the labor supply reflects an even larger 18,200 loss of jobholding residents—an employment decline of 6.4 percent. In the District, the employment decline has resulted primarily in a decrease in the labor supply. The increase in the level of District unemployment has been relatively small, amounting to a 900-person increase, or 4.8 percent. The overall result is a six-tenths of a percentage point increase in the District's unemployment rate over the year. This compares to approximately 1.6 percentage points increase in the unemployment rate in the Area, the suburbs and the nation.

District Unemployment Rates In the Month of March 1971 - 1991



The Area & Suburbs

Monthly movements in labor statistics in the Area and the suburbs mirrored those in the District. In March, both the Area and suburban labor forces grew, but employment expansions were even larger. Thus, additional jobless Area residents and suburbanites were withdrawn from unemployment rosters and the Area and suburban unemployment rates fell between February and March.

In March, 16,100 suburbanites entered the labor market while local employers added 20,900 suburban residents to their payrolls. The March employment expansion (1.2 percent) was thus strong enough to absorb the increase in the labor force and reduce suburban unemployment by 4,900. These labor force changes caused the suburban unemployment rate to drop three-tenths of a percentage point. **The February-to-March decline in the suburban rate represents the first monthly drop in the past 10 months.**

While the March suburban labor market changes represent a reasonably strong seasonal performance, the over-the-year suburban picture shows recessionary level market declines. For example, between March 1990 and March 1991, the number of suburbanites on employer payrolls fell by 52,700 workers—a yearly drop of nearly 3 percent. Unlike in the District, shrinking employment among suburbanites did not

Continued on page 4

Unemployment Rates in the Washington, D.C., MSA by City and County

	Mar.a/ 1991	Feb.b/ 1991	Mar.b/ 1990
1. Calvert County	7.3	8.2	3.3
2. Manassas City	7.2	8.3	2.1
3. Frederick County	6.9	8.1	3.5
4. District of Columbia	**6.9**	**7.4**	**6.3**
5. Stafford County	6.8	7.0	3.3
6. Charles County	4.8	5.1	2.5
7. Prince William County	4.7	4.9	2.2
8. Prince Georges County	4.4	4.7	3.0
9. Alexandria City	4.2	4.6	2.6
10. Manassas Park City	3.8	3.9	2.1
11. Loudoun County	3.8	3.8	1.7
12. Arlington County	3.2	3.3	2.0
13. Montgomery County	3.1	3.3	2.0
14. Fairfax County	2.9	3.0	1.8
15. Falls Church City	2.8	2.7	1.4
16. Fairfax City	2.1	2.5	1.7

a/ Preliminary. b/ Revised.

SOURCE: The Department of Employment Services, the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development and the Virginia Employment Commission.

Continued from page 3

result in any large contractions in the labor supply. Only 19,300 suburbanites left the labor force last year, a decline of only one percent vs. the nearly 6 percent labor force shrinkage in the District. As a result, the suburban unemployment rolls underwent a significant expansion of 33,400, a yearly increase of 85 percent. This large increase in the number of unemployed suburbanites generated a yearly increase of 1.8 percentage points in the unemployment rate and pushed the rate up from a very low 2.0 percent a year ago to 3.8 percent this March.

At the level of the Metropolitan Area's labor market, the positive monthly movements in the March labor force in both the District and the suburbs resulted in expanded Area employment and decreased unemployment. March was the first time in 4 months that the Area's unemployment rate fell. At 4.2 percent of the Area's labor force, this was the highest March unemployment rate since the 4.4 percent recorded seven years ago in March 1984.

While the March labor market changes for the Area were positive and relatively strong, the over-the-year performance shows the true impact of the declining economic activity in the Washington Area. Compared to March 1990, there are now 70,900 fewer Area residents with jobs, 36,600 fewer persons in the labor force and 34,300 more on the unemployment rolls. This latter statistic represents a nearly 60 percent increase in the number of jobless Area workers. The consequence of labor market changes during the past year is a large 1.6 percentage points increase in the Area's unemployment rate.

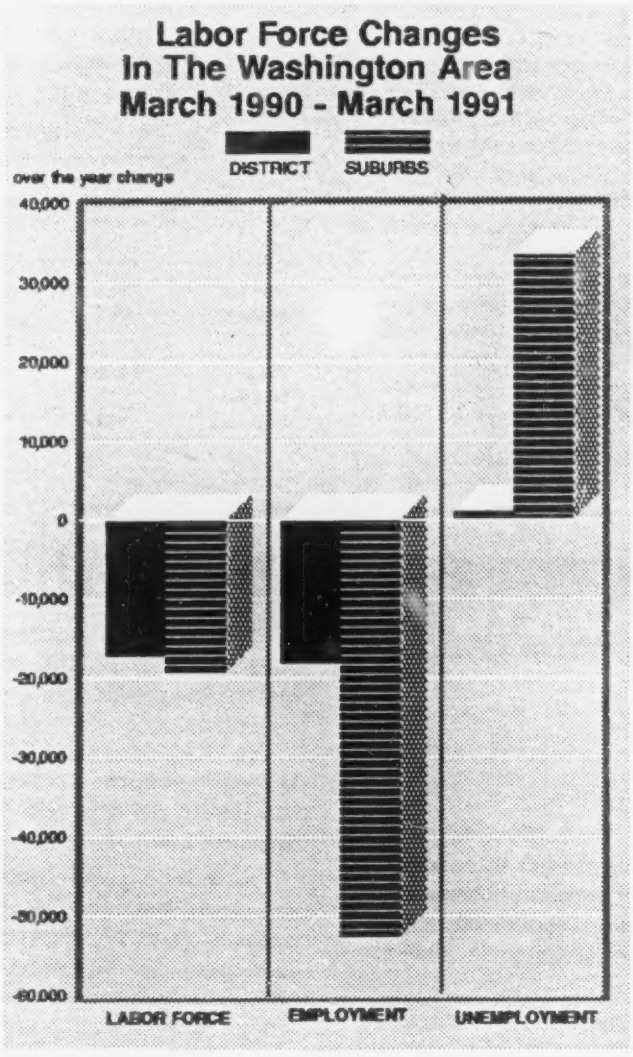
The Washington suburbs accounted for most of these over-the-year changes. For example, about 53 percent of the shrinkage in the Area's labor supply occurred among suburbanites. About 75 percent of the employment decline represents suburbanites who have lost jobs. **Most significantly, almost all the increase in the Area's unemployed workers (97 percent) represents persons living in the suburbs.** Still, the District with about 13 percent of the Area's labor force contains nearly 21 percent of the Area's unemployment. Thus, despite the large and significant increase in unemployment among suburbanites during this past year, the City still contains a disproportionate level of the Washington Area's unemployment.

Employment Status for the Civilian Population
District of Columbia, Suburban Ring, and the Washington, D.C. MSA
March 1991[a/]

	Mar.[b/] 1991	Feb.[c/] 1991	Mar.[d/] 1990	Feb.[d/] 1990	Net Change from Feb. 1991	Net Change from Mar. 1990
Washington, D.C.						
Civilian Labor Force	285,200	283,300	302,500	301,400	1,900	-17,300
Total Employed	265,400	262,400	283,600	282,300	3,000	-18,200
Total Unemployed	19,800	20,900	18,900	19,200	-1,100	900
Unemployment Rate[e/]	6.9	7.4	6.3	6.4	-0.5	0.6
Suburban Ring						
Civilian Labor Force	1,900,200	1,884,100	1,919,500	1,906,000	16,100	-19,300
Total Employed	1,827,500	1,806,600	1,880,200	1,862,500	20,900	-52,700
Total Unemployed	72,700	77,600	39,300	43,400	-4,900	33,400
Unemployment Rate[e/]	3.8	4.1	2.0	2.3	-0.3	1.8
Washington, D.C. MSA						
Civilian Labor Force	2,185,400	2,167,400	2,222,000	2,207,400	18,000	-36,600
Total Employed	2,092,900	2,069,000	2,163,800	2,144,800	23,900	-70,900
Total Unemployed	92,500	98,500	58,200	62,600	-6,000	34,300
Unemployment Rate[e/]	4.2	4.5	2.6	2.8	-0.3	1.6

a/ Data subject to annual benchmark revisions. Detail may not add to the totals due to independent rounding. b/ Preliminary. c/ Revised. d/ Data reflects benchmark revisions. e/ Seasonally unadjusted.

Estimated Labor Force and Employment for the Washington Metropolitan Area includes the District of Columbia, the Virginia Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park; the Virginia Counties of Fairfax, Arlington, Prince William, Loudoun, and Stafford; and the Maryland Counties of Montgomery, Prince Georges, Charles, Frederick, and Calvert.


Labor Force Changes
In The Washington Area
March 1990 - March 1991
DISTRICT
SUBURBS
over the year change
40,000
30,000
20,000
10,000
0
-10,000
-20,000
-30,000
-40,000
-50,000
-60,000
LABOR FORCE
EMPLOYMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

The number of individuals receiving unemployment insurance (UI) benefits in the District of Columbia totaled 14,065 in March 1991, down 1,048 from February and up 4,453 from a year ago. In March 1991, 58 percent of all UI claimants were males. Occupationally, professional, technical and managerial workers accounted for 26 percent of the total workers. This was followed by 23 percent in clerical and sales and 20 percent for service workers. Structural workers accounted for 19 percent of the claimants. The remaining 12 percent was distributed between machine trades, bench work, processing and miscellaneous workers.

The median duration of the current spell of insured unemployment was 10.0 weeks for all claimants in March. Over the month, the duration for males rose from 9.5 weeks to 10.0 weeks, while for females the duration rose from 9.9 weeks to 10.0 weeks. A year ago, the duration was 9.8 weeks for males and 10.0 weeks for females.

Labor Force Distribution
Washington Metropolitan Area
March 1991 & March 1990
(percent)

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed
		MARCH 1991	
Area	100.0	100.0	100.0
District	13.1	12.7	21.4
Suburbs	86.9	87.3	78.6
		MARCH 1990	
Area	100.0	100.0	100.0
District	13.6	13.1	32.5
Suburbs	86.4	86.9	67.5

Job Growth

The District

The number of jobs in the District increased by 4,700 for a gain of 0.7 percent between February and March. The private sector was responsible for the growth with primarily seasonal gains in Services (2,900 jobs).

The public sector increased by 1,000 jobs with gains in both Federal Government (700 jobs) and State and Local Government (300 jobs).

Over the year (March 1990 to March 1991), the number of District jobs decreased 0.4 percent for a loss of 2,700 jobs. **The private sector decreased at a rate of 0.7 percent for a loss of 2,800 jobs.** Losses were primarily concentrated in Retail Trade (1,700 jobs), Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (1,200 jobs) and Construction (900 jobs) while Services, the only job gainer, registered growth of 2,200 jobs.

The public sector gained 100 jobs with growth in State and Local Government (200 jobs) partially offset by a loss in Federal Government (100 jobs).

The Suburbs

The number of suburban jobs increased by 0.5 percent for a gain of 7,200 jobs between February and March. The private sector was responsible for 88 percent of the growth with gains in Services (5,100 jobs), Trade (1,300 jobs) and Construction (700 jobs). The Maryland suburbs accounted for 55 percent of the increase in Services and Trade and all of the gain in Construction.

The public sector increased by 900 jobs with growth in State and Local Government (1,100 jobs) partially offset by a slight loss in Federal Government (200 jobs). The Maryland suburbs accounted for 82 percent of the growth in State and Local Government while the Virginia suburbs were responsible for the loss in Federal Government.

Over the year (March 1990 to March 1991), suburban jobs declined at a rate of 1.1 percent for a loss of 17,500 jobs. **The Maryland suburbs grew at a rate of 0.4 percent while the Virginia suburbs decreased at a rate of 2.7 percent.**

The private sector, declining at a rate of 1.9 percent, accounted for the loss in suburban jobs with all of the decline in the goods-producing sector (23,600 jobs). Job losses were concentrated in Construction (20,100 jobs), Trade (3,300 jobs), Manufacturing (3,300 jobs)

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Continued from page 6

and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (1,800 jobs) while the only job gains occured in Services (4,300 jobs) and Transportation and Public Utilities (800 jobs). Eighty-two percent of the Construction loss and all of the decline in Trade occurred in the Virginia suburbs. The Virginia suburbs were also responsible for 52 percent of the loss in Manufacturing and 72 percent of the decline in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate as well as two-thirds of the Services growth while the Maryland suburbs accounted for the growth in Transportation and Public Utilities.

The public sector grew at a rate of 2.0 percent with growth in State and Local Government (9,600 jobs) partially offset by a loss in Federal Government (3,500 jobs). Fifty-seven percent of the State and Local Government growth was concentrated in the Maryland suburbs while 94 percent of the decline in Federal Government occurred in the Virginia suburbs.

The Area

The Washington Metropolitan Area gained 11,900 jobs between February and March. The private sector accounted for 84 percent of the growth with increases in Services (8,000 jobs), Trade (1,600 jobs) and Construction (700 jobs).

The public sector increased by 0.3 percent with gains in both State and Local Government (1,400 jobs) and Federal Government (500 jobs).

Over the year (March 1990 to March 1991), the Area declined at a rate of 0.9 percent for a loss of 20,200 jobs. The private sector, declining at a rate of 1.6 percent for a loss of 26,400 jobs, was responsible for the Area job loss. Job losses were concentrated in Construction (21,000 jobs), Trade (5,400 jobs), Manufacturing (3,600 jobs) and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (3,000 jobs) while job growth primarily occurred in Services (6,500 jobs).

The public sector grew at a rate of 1.1 percent with gains in State and Local Government (9,800 jobs) partially offset by a loss in Federal Government (3,600 jobs).

Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work[a/]
(in thousands)

	District of Columbia			Metropolitan Area		
INDUSTRY	Mar.[b/] 1991	Feb.[c/] 1991	Mar.[d/] 1990	Mar.[b/] 1991	Feb.[c/] 1991	Mar.[d/] 1990
TOTAL	**685.9**	**681.2**	**688.6**	**2,214.2**	**2,202.3**	**2,234.4**
Total Private Sector	**409.2**	**405.5**	**412.0**	**1,622.5**	**1,612.5**	**1,648.9**
Total Government	**276.7**	**275.7**	**276.6**	**591.7**	**589.8**	**585.5**
Total Goods Producing	**29.6**	**29.5**	**30.8**	**203.8**	**203.6**	**228.6**
Manufacturing	**15.6**	**15.5**	**15.9**	**84.8**	**85.3**	**88.4**
Total Durables	2.2	2.2	2.3	41.1	41.4	42.8
Stone, Clay, Glass Products	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.8	2.9	3.4
Electronic & Electric Equip.	N/A	N/A	N/A	18.4	18.5	17.1
All Other Durable	N/A	N/A	N/A	19.9	20.0	22.3
Total Non-Durable	13.4	13.3	13.6	43.7	43.9	45.6
Food & Kindred Products	0.3	0.3	0.3	4.6	4.6	4.5
Printing & Publishing	12.7	12.6	12.9	33.3	33.3	35.1
All Other Non-Durable	0.4	0.4	0.4	5.8	6.0	6.0
Mining	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**1.1**	**1.1**	**1.3**
Construction	**13.9**	**13.9**	**14.8**	**117.9**	**117.2**	**138.9**
Total Service Producing	**656.3**	**651.7**	**657.8**	**2010.4**	**1998.7**	**2005.8**

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Continued from page 7

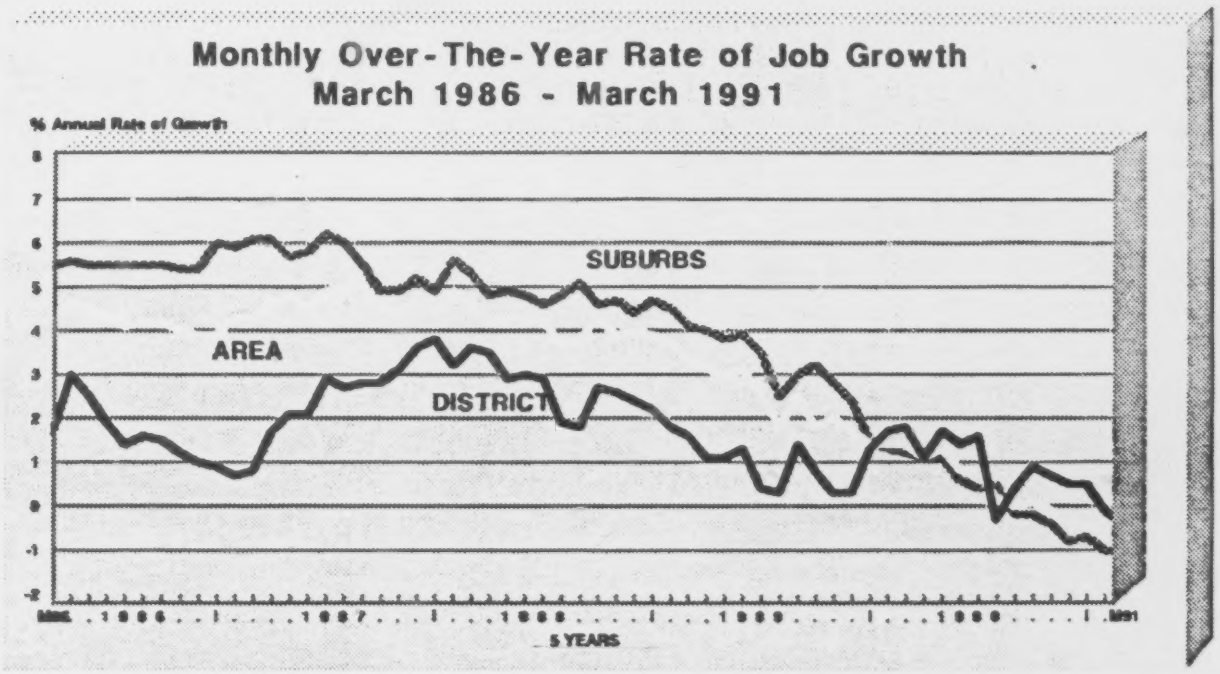
Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work[a]
(in thousands)

INDUSTRY	District of Columbia			Metropolitan Area		
	Mar.[b] 1991	Feb.[c] 1991	Mar.[d] 1990	Mar.[b] 1991	Feb.[c] 1991	Mar.[d] 1990
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	**23.6**	**23.4**	**24.1**	**107.0**	**106.6**	**106.7**
All Transportation	8.9	8.8	9.2	50.7	50.4	50.4
Railroads	4.1	4.1	4.2	5.2	5.2	5.3
Transportation ex. Railroad	4.8	4.7	5.0	45.5	45.2	45.1
Communications & Public Utilities	14.7	14.6	14.9	56.3	56.2	56.3
Trade	**59.9**	**59.6**	**62.0**	**424.0**	**422.4**	**429.4**
Wholesale	8.2	8.2	8.6	78.6	78.7	78.4
Retail	51.7	51.4	53.4	345.4	343.7	351.0
General Merchandise	N/A	N/A	N/A	35.8	36.4	38.4
Food Stores	N/A	N/A	N/A	49.9	50.0	49.2
Automotive	N/A	N/A	N/A	35.9	36.0	37.5
Apparel & Accessories	N/A	N/A	N/A	28.7	28.7	28.7
Eating & Drinking Places	27.3	27.0	27.5	113.8	112.3	114.5
All Other Retail	24.4	24.4	25.9	81.3	80.3	82.7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	**33.0**	**32.8**	**34.2**	**128.4**	**128.6**	**131.4**
Finance	15.4	15.3	16.3	59.1	59.3	60.7
Depository Institutions	8.3	8.3	9.2	39.1	39.3	40.5
Other Finance	7.1	7.0	7.1	20.0	20.0	20.2
Insurance	8.1	8.0	8.1	28.6	28.6	28.0
Real Estate	9.5	9.5	9.8	40.7	40.7	42.7
Services	**263.1**	**260.2**	**260.9**	**759.3**	**751.3**	**752.8**
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	17.9	17.0	17.4	39.0	38.0	37.7
Personal Services	3.4	3.4	3.6	23.3	23.2	23.7
Business Services	38.4	37.9	39.6	181.8	179.2	181.6
Service to Buildings	13.1	13.0	14.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
Personnel Supply	8.0	7.8	8.6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Computer & Data Process	6.0	5.9	5.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Business Services	11.3	11.2	11.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Health Services	38.4	38.1	38.4	119.5	119.0	117.1
Legal Services	30.4	30.3	29.9	40.9	40.7	40.3
Educational Services	32.8	32.1	31.7	46.8	46.2	45.2
Social Services	13.1	12.9	12.8	37.2	36.9	35.1
Membership Organizations	34.7	34.7	33.7	63.0	62.8	61.3
Engineering/Management Ser.	43.9	43.7	43.6	145.1	144.9	148.0
All Other Services	10.1	10.1	10.2	62.7	60.4	62.8
Government	**276.7**	**275.7**	**276.6**	**591.7**	**589.8**	**585.5**
Federal Government	219.4	218.7	219.5	359.4	358.9	363.0
State & Local Government	57.3	57.0	57.1	232.3	230.9	222.5
State Government	52.5	52.2	52.4	81.5	81.0	79.4
Local Government	N/A	N/A	N/A	150.8	149.9	143.1
Public Transportation	4.8	4.8	4.7	N/A	N/A	N/A

a/ Detail may not add to totals due to independent rounding. Data subject to annual benchmark revisions. b/ Preliminary.
c/ Revised. d/ Data reflects benchmark revisions.

Data includes all full-and part-time employees who worked during or received pay for any part of the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and private household workers are excluded.

SOURCE: Prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Labor Market Information and Research Staff in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



Area Job Growth Rates

Over the past five years (March 1986 to March 1991), the Washington Area created new jobs at a rate of 3.1 percent. Measured by monthly over-the-year changes, however, the rate of growth has declined from a peak of 5.0 percent in August 1987 to a net loss of nine-tenths of a percent in March 1991. **This marked the fifth consecutive month that the Washington Area recorded an over-the-year job loss.** This March's measurement was down from a 1.4 percent increase reported in March 1990.

For the seventh consecutive month, the suburban economy recorded an over-the-year job loss. The March loss represented a job decline of 1.1 percent from a year earlier. This suburban loss was down from the yearly growth of 1.2 percent reported in March 1990. In the District, the number of jobs decreased over the year by four-tenths of a percentage point and represents the second consecutive over-the-year drop. The loss of District jobs this year compares to a growth of 1.8 percent reported in the same month a year ago.

In absolute terms, job creation in the Area has declined from a peak gain during the past five years of 101,300 new jobs created between July 1986 and July 1987, to a loss of 20,200 jobs between March 1990 and this past March. Over the past year, 17,500 jobs were lost by the suburban economy, while the District lost 2,700 jobs.

The U.S. economy for the second month lost jobs over the year. The U.S. loss was slightly less than in the Washington Area (a 0.7 percent decline for the U.S. economy vs. the 0.9 percent loss for the Washington Area). March marked the sixteenth consecutive month in which the rate of local job creation was below the rate for all of the United States.

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Profile of Job Growth Rates
March 1990 to March 1991

The Area	
Average 60 months	3.1%
High, August 1987	5.0%
Low, March 1991	-0.9%
1-year ago	1.4%
Last month	-0.6%
Current month	-0.9%
The Suburbs	
Average 60 months	3.7%
High, July 1987	6.2%
Low, March 1991	-1.1%
1-year ago	1.2%
Last month	-0.8%
Current month	-1.1%
The District	
Average 60 months	1.7%
High, December 1987	3.8%
Low, March 1991	-0.4%
1-year ago	1.8%
Last month	-0.2%
Current month	-0.4%

Note: Data reflects benchmark revisions for 1989-1990.

THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

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- A system to list your jobs for quick, efficient screenin.

VIP Services
- Reduced recruitment costs
- Proficiency Testing
- High quality referrals

Employer Services Center
- Recruitment assistance
- Employer Workshops
- Resume Bank
- Labor Market Information

JOB SERVICE Department of Employment Services

Industrial Profile:

Recent Job Losses in the U.S. and the Area: March 1990 to March 1991

The Washington Area has been recording over-the-year job losses for the past four months. The suburbs have been losing jobs for seven months and the District for the past two months. But what about the U.S. economy? This profile reviews local job losses by major industrial segments against recent performance of the U.S. job market.

Earlier studies by the Department examined the relationship of national and local job creation during the downside of national business cycles. There were clear signs that in the Washington Area, the job market had negatively responded to recent national business downturns.[1] It was found that the Washington Area was not recession proof. Most of the cyclical impact in the past three recessions was concentrated in the District. By contrast, the current Area job losses are primarily in the suburbs.

The data used in this analysis are recent monthly estimates from the data series Non-Agricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work, commonly referred to as "non-farm employment" or "the monthly establishment survey."

Recent National and Local Performance

According to reports from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, total jobs in the U.S. economy have fallen on a seasonally unadjusted basis from 109.3 million in March of 1990 to 108.6 million in March of 1991. This represents a loss of 733,000 jobs or 0.7 percent. March marked the second consecutive monthly job decline in the U.S. economy when measured month to month over the year.

Unlike past recessions, the Washington Area preceded the U.S. economy into negative over-the-year job losses by three months. The suburban part of the Washington Area started to lose jobs 5 months before the U.S. economy. The District proper seems to be on the same downward time track as the U.S. job market.

Relatively speaking, Area job losses of 0.9 percent through March are only slightly more extensive than the U.S. loss of 0.7 percent. Suburban losses, on the other hand, have been relatively more extensive at 1.1 percent of its March 1990 job base. The District has lost the fewest jobs (0.4 percent).

Impact by Industrial Segments

In examining over-the-year changes in major industrial segments of the economy, several clear patterns emerge. First, the construction industry both nationally and locally has experienced the largest relative job losses over the past year. This decline is most apparent in the Washington suburbs where construction employment is down more than 16 percent from March of 1990. For the U.S. industry the comparable figure is about 10 percent.

It should be noted, however, that in the U.S. economy the largest absolute job losses have occurred in Manufacturing. For example, U.S. factories lost 835,000 workers, compared to only 482,000 in construction. In the Washington Area, construction produced both the largest relative loss (15.1 percent) and absolute loss (26,400 jobs). But even in the Washington Area, Manufacturing has lost a relatively large share of its March 1990 job base—(4.4 percent in the Area, 4.6 percent in the suburbs and 1.9 percent in D.C.). The number of lost local manufacturing jobs, are relatively small (3,600 in the Area, 3,300 in the suburbs and 300 in the District).

The second obvious feature in the industrial mix is government. State and Local Government in all jurisdictions is one of the strongest growth industries, producing an over-the-year growth rate in March of 2.2 percent nationally, and 4.4 percent in the Washington Area. Nearly all the local State and Local Government growth has been in the suburbs where governments have added nearly 6 percent more workers to their March 1990 job base. Local Government growth in the District has been only marginal. In spite of this, there has been extensive discussions about future State and Local Government employment cutbacks and retrenchments in this, one of the only industries showing any over-the-year growth.

On the other hand, Federal government agencies already have implemented employment reduction policies. Over the past year, Federal jobs have fallen nationally by 4.6 percent, or in a relative way, at an even steeper rate than the 4.4 percent reduction in the

Continued on page 12

[1] See: *Area Labor Summary*, "Jobs in the Washington Area During the Downside of Business Cycles," November 1990 and "Washington Area Construction Jobs: 1949-1989" May 1990.

Continued from page 11

manufacturing industries. In the Washington Area, the local suburbs have lost 2.4 percent of their March 1990 Federal employment, while in the District Federal employment remained unchanged. The Federal balance sheet for the Area shows a 1.0 percent decline in jobs during the past year.

The third major feature in the industrial picture is found in the growth industry—Services. This is the industry that produced most of the remarkable growth in both the U.S. and the local economies during the middle and latter parts of the 1980's. While this industry is still creating some new jobs over the year, its growth, especially in the Washington Area, is very anemic—less than 1 percent. Nationally, the Services industry is still producing new jobs at a relatively strong 2.4 percent. The local segment seems to be harder hit than its national counterpart.

Interestingly, the U.S. Finance, Insurance and Real Estate industry has not lost any jobs in the past year. On the other hand, it hasn't produced any jobs either. Locally, it is one of the Area's job losers with an employment decline of over 2 percent, with a 3.5 percent loss in the District and 1.9 percent in the suburbs. These declines in financial jobs reflect excessive local inventories in office space, as well as, the over-extended credit positions of many local developers.

Similarly, Retail Trade is reflecting lost jobs as is typical in a recession when consumer confidence and spending are low. Nationally, retail employment over the year is off 1.2 percent and locally 1.6 percent, with the District's losses measuring 3.5 percent and reflecting the failure of a major department store, as well as, the general weakness of consumer consumption.

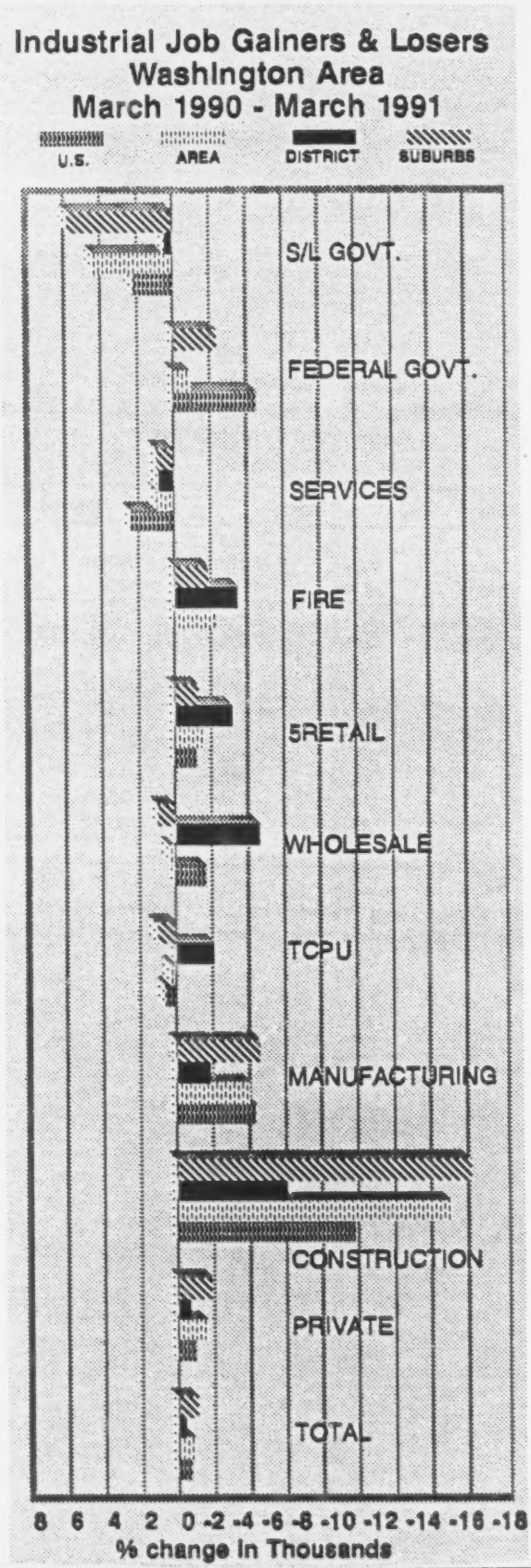
O ervations

.ow that the U.S. economy has officially been declared in a recessi it must mean the local economy is also "offic .ly" in a recession. In fact using job numbers as a guide, the Area probably preceded the American economy into the downturn this time. The picture of job declines by major industrial segments in both the national and local economy, however, are strikingly similar.

Clearly, problems in the building industries are a key feature of this recession both at the national and local levels, as has been the case in all recessions during the past 40 years. Because of the close relationship between construction and financial markets, the Finance, Insurance and Real Estate industry is also showing employment weaknesses. But unlike in recent past recessions, economic and institutional adjustments in these financial industries may involve fundamental structural changes that could delay a rapid recovery and even produce further job losses.

While most local attention has focused on problems of the Construction and the Finance and Real Estate Industries, the real key to a future local recovery will probably be found in the resumption of strong growth rates in the Services industry. The excessive local office inventories probably will not be absorbed until the Services Industry resumes its growth and begins to fill up the empty office spaces with new workers. In addition, it will be the new jobs in the relatively large Services segment that will draw most of the workers from the unemployment rolls and create the most new jobs for entrants and reentrants into t abor force. These additional Services industry wo will also represent both new consumers and taxpayers, thus refueling consumption in other segments of the economy. On the other hand, if the sluggish Services growth does not improve in the near future, the Area could be in for an extended period of negative economic activity compounded by future declines in public sector jobs.

Continued on page 13


Industrial Job Gainers & Losers
Washington Area
March 1990 - March 1991
U.S.
AREA
DISTRICT
SUBURBS
S/L GOVT.
FEDERAL GOVT.
SERVICES
FIRE
5RETAIL
WHOLESALE
TCPU
MANUFACTURING
CONSTRUCTION
PRIVATE
TOTAL
8 6 4 2 0 -2 -4 -6 -8 -10 -12 -14 -16 -18
% change in Thousands

Industrial Job Gains & Losses
The United States, The Area, The District & The Suburbs
March 1990 to March 1991*
(in thousands)

	United States		Area		District		Suburbs	
	March 1990	March 1991	March 1990	March 1991	March 1990	March 1991	March 1990	March 1991
TOTAL	109,343.0	108,610.0	2,234.4	2,214.2	688.6	685.9	1,545.8	1,528.3
PRIVATE	90,807.0	89,869.0	1,648.9	1,622.5	412.0	409.2	1,236.9	1,213.3
CONST.	4,906.0	4,424.0	138.9	117.9	14.8	13.9	124.1	104.0
MFG.	19,109.0	18,274.0	88.4	84.8	15.9	15.6	72.5	69.2
TCPU	5,750.0	5,787.0	106.7	107.0	24.1	23.6	82.6	83.4
WHOLESALE	6,326.0	6,220.0	78.4	78.6	8.6	8.2	69.8	70.4
RETAIL	19,361.0	19,131.0	351.0	345.4	53.4	51.7	297.6	293.7
FIRE	6,774.0	6,775.0	131.4	128.4	34.2	33.0	97.2	95.4
SERVICES	27,866.0	28,538.0	752.8	759.3	260.9	263.1	491.9	496.2
FED. GOV.	3,082.0	2,940.0	363.0	359.4	219.5	219.4	143.5	140.0
S/L GOV.	15,454.0	15,801.0	222.5	232.3	57.1	57.3	165.4	175.0

*Preliminary Estimates

SOURCE: Non-Agricultural Wage & Salary Employment. The Department of Employment Services, The Virginia Employment Commission, The Maryland Department of Economic & Employment Development and The Bureau of Labor Statistics.

How You As An Employer Can Get Involved In SUMMERWORKS '91

OPTION I:
HIRE A SUMMER WORKER

SUMMERWORKS '91 will operate from July 1-August 9, 1991. Administered by the Department of Employment Services, the six-week program will assign a youth to your business based upon the youth's individual needs and career interest. Likewise, careful attention will be given to pre-employment counseling and matching the participant's interests with the needs of your organization. Up to three candidates will be referred to you from which you make your selection(s). Once the interviews are completed, you may then notify the Department's Youth Office of your selection.

The youth are paid the minimum wage of $4.25 an hour or more, depending on the skills required in the job assignment.

To learn more about hiring opportunities this summer, call the Office of Youth Employment at (202) 639-1186/7 or (202) 639-1459.

OPTION II:
MAKE A MONETARY CONTRIBUTION

For companies unable to hire because the nature of the work performed may be unsuited for young people or restricted by law, monetary donations may be contributed to enable a business to sponsor a teenager's summer experience. In this category, a corporate donation will sponsor a young person in one of the program's Innovative Projects, a training component specially designed for the 14 and 15-year old population. Here, the young person engages in a 6-week program of educational enrichment, basic education, and career exploration aimed at preparing this largely unskilled age group for the world of work. Based upon the individual need or career interest, the young person may choose from a wide selection of projects ranging from math and computer science, the visual and performing arts, to English As a Second Language. The special projects are conducted throughout the city under contractual agreements with community-based non-profit organizations and with local universities.

The cost to sponsor a young person in a 6-week, 20-hour per week Innovative Project is $549. To mail your contribution to sponsor a youth this summer, write to:

SUMMERWORKS '91
c/o D.C. Private Industry Council
1129 20th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

The check or money order should be made payable to: SUMMERWORKS '91

The D.C. Private Industry Council (PIC) is a 501c(3) non-profit corporation. Donations to the PIC are generally tax deductible, however corporations should consult their accountants for further information regarding their tax liability.

WASHINGTON, D.C.
SUMMERWORKS '91
"An Investment Today in Tomorrow's Future"
" LET'S GET TO WORK THIS SUMMER."
I'd like to work team District's Program, we have eager kids willing to work for a limited they pay hard work and en- Give it a shot. kids reach their ing you. Call SUMMERWORKS '91 let's get to work helping each other.
have some kids join your this summer. In the Summerworks '91 bright, and wanting you. You pay wage, and you back with thusiasm. Help these goals by help- and
— John Thompson
Chairman
D.C. SUMMERWORKS '91
D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
(202) 639-1186 / 7
D.C. PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL
(202) 463-7811

Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area

In February 1991, the Bureau of Labor Statistics ranked 271 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) by preliminary unemployment rates. The Washington Area's February jobless rate was up 0.1 percentage point to 4.5 percent. This was the thirty-third lowest jobless rate of the 271 areas reporting. A year ago, the Washington Area rate was 2.8 percent, a 1.7 percentage points rise.

Comparing the Washington Area with other large metropolitan areas nationwide, the Washington Area's rate at 4.5 percent was the fourth lowest of all the major metropolitan areas.

In February, the Baltimore Area, only 35 miles north of Washington, reported a 0.6 percentage point rise in its jobless rate, up from 6.4 to 7.0 percent. A year ago, the Baltimore rate was 4.3 percent, up 2.7 percentage points over the year. This makes the Baltimore area the thirty-fifth highest rate among the 40 selected areas tracked in the Area Labor Summary.

For the second consecutive month, the Richmond-Petersburg Area, 110 miles to the south of Washington, posted a 0.6 percentage point increase in its jobless rate. In February the rate was 5.5 percent. A year ago, the rate was 3.9 percent. Their neighbor, the Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport area had a 6.7 percent jobless rate in February compared to 4.5 last year.

Of the 40 selected areas, jobless rates between 4.0 percent and 4.9 percent were reported in 8 other large metropolitan areas. The lowest was recorded in Tucson at 3.7 percent followed by San Francisco and Phoenix both at 4.4 percent. As stated above, the District of Columbia was at 4.5 percent, Portland at 4.7 percent, Seattle at 4.8 percent and Milwaukee, Nashville and Houston all at 4.9 percent.

There were 13 large metropolitan areas with rates between 5.0 and 5.9 percent. There also were 12 large metropolitan areas with rates between 6.0 and 6.9 percent, 3 large metropolitan areas with rates between 7.0 and 7.9 percent, 2 large metropolitan areas with rates between 8.0 and 8.9 percent. Detroit at 10.2 percent was the only major metropolitan area with a double digit jobless rate.

Of the 271 metropolitan areas for which February unemployment data are available, 136 had over-the-year increases of 1 percentage point or more in their unemployment rates, while only 16 had decreases of that magnitude. A total of 62 areas had February 1991 rates of 8 percent or higher, while 61 had rates of 5 percent or below.

Continued on page 17

Unemployment Rates in Selected Statistical Areas

MSA	February 1991*	February 1990
1. Tucson, AR	3.7	3.8
2. San Francisco, CA	4.4	3.0
3. Phoenix, AR	4.4	3.8
4. Washington, D.C.	**4.5**	**2.8**
5. Portland, OR	4.7	4.3
6. Seattle, WA	4.8	4.2
7. Milwaukee, WI	4.9	3.8
8. Nashville, TN	4.9	3.8
9. Houston, TX	4.9	5.6
10. Columbus, OH	5.2	5.2
11. New Orleans, LA	5.2	6.4
12. Memphis, TN	5.2	4.5
13. Hartford, CT	5.3	4.6
14. Dallas, TX	5.3	5.4
15. Louisville, KY	5.4	5.7
16. Minneapolis-St. Louis, MN	5.5	3.7
17. Richmond-Petersburg, VA	5.5	3.9
18. Denver, CO	5.5	5.7
19. Oakland, CA	5.5	3.7
20. Indianapolis, IN	5.6	4.3
21. Chicago, IL	5.8	6.0
22. Oklahoma City, OK	5.8	5.3
23. Montgomery, AL	6.1	6.1
24. Kansas City, MO	6.3	5.0
25. San Diego, CA	6.3	3.7
26. Cleveland, OH	6.4	5.3
27. Atlanta, GA	6.5	4.6
28. Philadelphia, PA	6.5	4.9
29. Dayton, OH	6.7	6.0
30. Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport, VA	6.7	4.5
31. Newark, NJ	6.8	5.1
32. Pittsburgh, PA	6.9	6.1
33. New York, NY	6.9	6.0
34. St. Louis, MO	6.9	6.1
35. Baltimore, MD	7.0	4.3
36. Buffalo, NY	7.1	5.6
37. Los Angeles, CA	7.4	5.5
38. Miami, FL	8.2	6.5
39. Boston, MA	8.2	4.7
40. Detroit, MI	10.2	7.8

*Preliminary unemployment rates.

Continued from page 16

States

When the District of Columbia (with a February unemployment rate of 7.4 percent) was ranked with the 50 States, the District had the seventeenth highest jobless rate in the Country. This was six notches below the position held in January.

Maryland's rate at 6.5 percent was up from 6.1 percent recorded in January. Maryland's rate has been growing increasingly over the last year. This month, Maryland ranked thirty-fifth, same as last month. A year ago, Maryland's rate was 3.9 percent, up 2.6 percentage points over the year.

On the other hand, Virginia's rate also was at 6.5 percent up from the 5.8 percent posted in January. Virginia's rate seems to be on the upswing. In January, Virginia had one of the twelve lowest jobless rates and ranked fortieth among the 51 jurisdictions. In February, it ranked thirty-sixth. A year ago, Virginia's jobless rate was 4.4 percent, up 2.1 percentage points over the year.

Twenty-nine states and the District of Columbia reported over-the-year increases in their unemployment rate of 1 percentage point or more. The largest increases—more than 3 percentage points—took place in three New England states where the unemployment rate rose 4.1 points in Massachusetts and by 3.4 points in both Maine and Vermont. Other states with increases of 2 percentage points or more included California, Michigan and four Atlantic states—Delaware, Georgia, Maryland and Virginia. No state reported an unemployment rate decrease of 1 percentage point or more.

Seven states had February 1991 unemployment rates of 8 percent or above, compared with three states a year earlier. West Virginia, at 10.5 percent, and Michigan, at 10.2 percent, had the highest unemployment rates, followed by Massachusetts (9.9 percent), Mississippi (8.9 percent), and Alaska, Maine, and Rhode Island (all 8.8 percent). Only 5 states had jobless rates of 5 percent or below in February 1991, compared with 16 a year earlier. Hawaii (2.5 percent) and Nebraska (2.8 percent) continued to have the lowest rates, as they had since July 1989.

Cities

In comparison with the 26 other selected central cities, the District of Columbia (with a February preliminary rate of 7.4 percent) held the sixteenth position. This was two notches below the January position when it was fourteenth. In February, the average unemployment rate for the 27 cities was 7.4 percent, compared to 6.3 percent last February.

Only twelve cities reported jobless rates at or below 6 percent, with the lowest posted in Phoenix at 4.6 percent, followed by Seattle at 4.9 percent and San Francisco at 5.0 percent.

Baltimore's rate rose 0.3 percentage point over the month to 9.4 percent. Baltimore held the twenty-third position among the 27 selected cities. Baltimore's February 1991 rate was 2.4 percentage points higher than the February 1990 rate of 7.0 percent.

This was the sixth consecutive month that Newark was in the double digit column. Newark held the twenty-seventh position in December and January, however, in February it fell to the twenty-sixth position. Newark's rate at 12.7 percent was up 2.5 percent over the year.

Detroit's jobless rate at 14.6 percent in February was up two full percentage points over the month. Detroit recorded the second highest rate of the 27 cities in December and January. However, in February it took over the twenty-seventh position. Detroit's rate was up a significant 3.5 percentage points over the year.

Of the 27 selected central cities, only six reported decreases in joblessness and twenty reported increases in joblessness over the year. The largest over-the-year decrease was the 1.0 percentage point posted in New Orleans. There were five cities with over-the-year increases in joblessness of two or more percentage points. The largest being recorded in Boston 3.7 percent, Detroit 3.5 percent, Miami 3.0 percent, Newark 2.5 percent and Baltimore 2.4 percent. Pittsburgh's rate at 5.6 percent was unchanged over the year.

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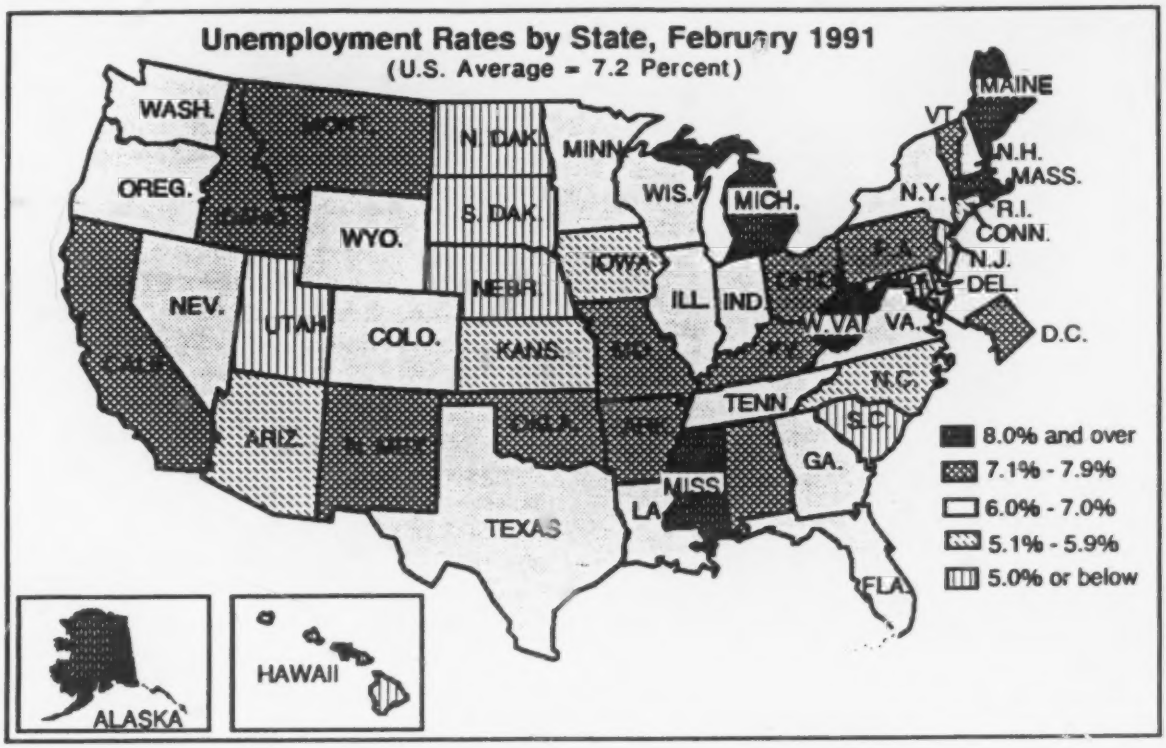


Unemployment Rates in Selected Cities

	February	
	1991*	1990
1. Phoenix, AR	4.6	4.1
2. Seattle, WA	4.9	4.1
3. San Francisco, CA	5.0	3.5
4. New Orleans, LA	5.1	6.1
5. Memphis, TN	5.2	4.5
6. Columbus, OH	5.3	5.0
7. Houston, TX	5.3	5.9
8. Denver, CO	5.5	5.6
9. Pittsburgh, PA	5.6	5.6
10. Milwaukee, WI	6.0	4.9
11. Dallas, TX	6.0	6.2
12. Indianapolis, IN	6.0	4.6
13. San Diego, CA	6.3	3.8
14. Chicago, IL	6.9	7.5
15. New York, NY	7.3	6.5
16. District of Columbia	**7.4**	**6.4**
17. Philadelphia, PA	7.8	6.2
18. Los Angeles, CA	8.2	6.2
19. St. Louis, MO	8.2	8.1
20. Atlanta, GA	8.5	6.4
21 Boston, MA	8.6	4.9
22 Hartford, CT	9.1	9.8
23 altimore, MD	9.4	7.0
24 eveland, OH	9.8	8.1
25 Miami, FL	10.1	8.1
26. Newark, NJ	12.7	10.2
27. Detroit, MI	14.6	11.1

*Preliminary unemployment rates.

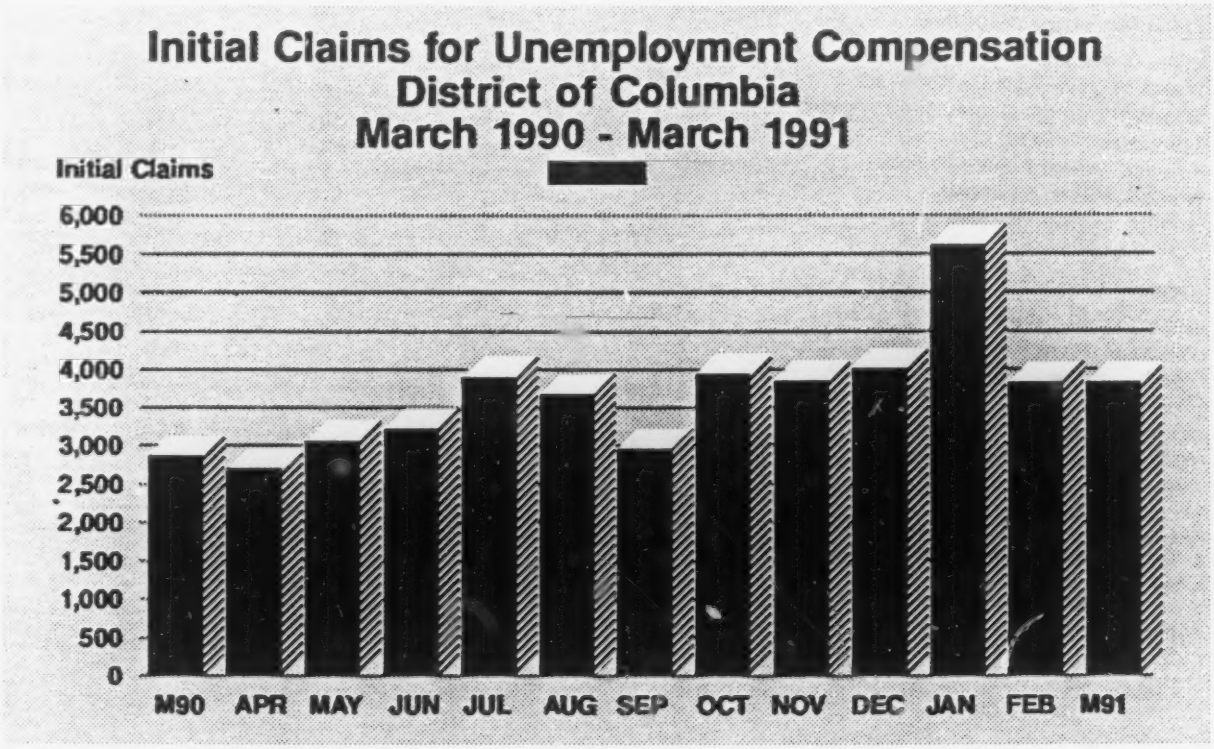
Unemployment Insurance Activities—March 1991

In March 1991, new claims for unemployment compensation benefits totalled 3,820 from former workers in the city and others who use our services in the national network of unemployment compensation systems. The March level of initial claims dropped only slightly (0.2 of a percent) below the workload in February. Compared to March of 1990, the current month's claims increased 33 percent.

The number of weeks claimed for unemployment compensation during March amounted to 53,640, while the number actually compensated totalled 53,820. These levels were 5 and 6 percent, respectively, above last month, but 48 and 53 percent above the same month last year. These workload figures compared to last year are an indication of the downturn of the economy at this time compared to last year.

As expected, the outlay for benefits rose from last month—somewhat commensurate with the weeks compensated for benefits—since the average weekly payout did not rise significantly. The outlay for benefits in March was $11.5 million compared to $10.9 million last month.

The workload activity in the first quarter of 1991 rose from the previous quarter. Initial claims and weeks compensated rose 12 and 25 percent, respectively. Along with the workload activity, outlay was on the upswing, rising from $27.3 million in the fourth quarter of 1990 to $34.6 million in the first quarter of 1991. The quarterly increase in workload and benefit payout is an indication of the continued slowdown in the economic activity of the area. Similarly, the comparison of the first quarters of 1990 and 1991, when the relative increase generally double, is an indication of the transition from a "normal" to a "recessionary" economy.



Selected Unemployment Insurance Benefit Statistics
(Regular Programs)
District of Columbia
March 1991

	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	% Change From Feb. 1991	% Change From Mar. 1990
State UI Program[a/]					
Initial Claims Taken	3,746	3,724	2,734	+0.6	+37.0
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	50,894	48,460	34,219	+5.0	+48.7
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	51,007	47,979	33,051	+6.3	+54.3
Total Benefits Paid	$10,895,159	$10,195,478	$6,623,602	+6.9	+64.5
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$213.60	$212.50	$200.41	+0.5	+6.6
Number of First Payments	2,853	2,954	1,662	-3.4	+71.7
Number of Final Payments	1,249	1,176	766	+6.2	+63.1
Total Beneficiaries	14,773	14,102	9,231	+4.8	+60.0
Federal Program[b/]					
Initial Claims Taken	48	76	87	-36.8	-44.8
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	2,427	2,456	1,899	-1.2	+27.8
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	2,586	2,609	1,990	-0.9	+29.9
Total Benefits Paid	$590,522	$607,025	$455,024	-2.7	+29.8
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$228.35	$232.67	$228.66	-1.9	-0.1
Number of First Payments	101	135	91	-25.2	+11.0
Number of Final Payments	64	59	76	+8.5	-15.8
Total Beneficiaries	688	713	546	-3.5	+26.0
Ex-Servicepersons Program[c/]					
Initial Claims Taken	25	28	47	-10.7	-46.8
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	321	304	236	+5.6	+36.0
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	233	242	168	-3.7	+38.7
Total Benefits Paid	$49,355	$50,053	$33,569	-1.4	+47.0
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$211.82	$206.83	$199.82	+2.4	+6.0
Number of First Payments	23	16	20	+43.8	+15.0
Number of Final Payments	1	14	6	+21.4	+183.3
Total Beneficiaries	78	76	58	+2.6	+34.5
Total—All Programs					
Initial Claims Taken	3,819	3,828	2,868	-0.2	+33.2
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	53,642	51,220	36,354	+4.7	+47.6
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	53,826	50,830	35,209	+5.9	+52.9
Total Benefits Paid	$11,535,036	$10,852,556	$7,112,195	+6.3	+62.2
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$214.30	$213.51	$202.00	+0.4	+6.1
Number of First Payments	2,977	3,105	1,773	-4.1	+67.9
Number of Final Payments	1,330	1,249	848	+6.5	+56.8
Total Beneficiaries	15,539	14,891	9,835	+4.4	+58.0

a/ Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE), and/or Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicepersons (UCX)

b/ Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation of Ex-Serviceperson (UCX).

c/ No joint claims

Unemployment Insurance Activities
Selecteds Quarters, 1990 and 1991
District of Columbia

	1st Qtr. 1990	4th Qtr. 1990	1st Qtr. 1991	Percent Change From 1st Qtr. 1990	Percent Change From 4th Qtr. 1990
Initial Claims	9,887	11,788	13,256	+34.1	+12.4
Weeks Compensated	108,514	129,270	161,704	+49.0	+25.1
Total Benefits Outlay	$21,826,953	$27,317,978	$34,551,215	+58.3	+26.5
Average Weekly Benefits	$201.14	$211.32	$213.67	+6.2	+1.1

The Washington, D.C. Area Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Statistical Area rose 0.1 percent during the 2 months ended in March, to a level of 139.3 (1982-84=100). **For the 12-month period ended in March, the CPI-U rose 4.1 percent.** The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) also rose 0.1 percent from January to March. The March level of 137.9 (1982-84=100) was 3.8 percent higher than the CPI-W index in March 1990.

The 0.1 percent increase in the CPI-U from January to March follows an increase of 0.5 percent in the preceding 2-month period. The slowdown largely reflects a sharp decline in energy costs, which declined 7.4 percent from January to March compared to a decline of 3.3 percent in the preceding 2-month period. However, this decline was offset by increased costs for housing, food, entertainment, and medical care. Excluding energy, the CPI-U rose 0.6 percent from January to March compared with an increase of 0.8 percent in the preceding 2-month period.

Comparing the local CPI-U with the U.S. city average, over the January-March period, the acceleration was just about even. The prices of goods and services tended to increase more rapidly locally than nationally in food and beverages, entertainment and energy. On the other hand, prices of goods and services tended to increase more rapidly nationally than locally only in one category—apparel and upkeep. Price increase changes were just about even in housing, transportation, medical care, and other goods and services.

Over the year, the local index rose 4.1 percent, while the national index rose 4.9 percent, 0.8 percent higher nationally. The prices of goods and services tended to increase more rapidly nationally than locally in food and beverage and housing, apparel and upkeep, and energy. On the other hand, prices of goods and services tended to increase more rapidly locally than nationally in transportation, medical care, and entertainment. Price increases were just about even in other goods and services.

Washington, D.C.
Area Consumer Price Index
(All Urban Consumers—CPI-U)[a/]

	March 1991	Percent Change 2 months Ago	Percent Change Year Ago
ALL Items			
U.S.	135.0	+0.3	+4.9
Washington Area	139.3	+0.1	+4.1
Expenditure Category			
Food & Beverage	137.3	+1.0	+3.0
Housing	138.9	+0.5	+3.0
Apparel & Upkeep	138.8	-0.1	-2.2
Transportation	123.9	-2.7	+5.2
Medical Care	175.3	+1.3	+11.0
Entertainment	140.7	+2.6	+7.3
Other Goods & Services	175.8	+0.7	+8.3
Special Index:			
Energy[b/]	97.4	+0.8	-7.4

a/ 1982-84=100, except as noted.
b/ June 1978=100.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, table prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Labor Market Information and Research Staff.

Hours and Earnings in Manufacturing

Total Manufacturing Average Weekly Earnings in the Metropolitan Area for March 1991 increased $10.36, Average Weekly Hours remained unchanged and Average Hourly Earnings rose 27 cents.

In the Durable Goods Sector, Stone, Clay and Glass Products' hourly earnings rose 37 cents due to piece work or higher incentive p At the same time, weekly earnings and weekly hou s dropped $1.69 and 1.2 hours, respectively, due to a shorter scheduled workweek. Electric Machinery, Equipment and Supplies also had a shorter workweek which caused weekly earnings to drop $6.20 and weekly hours to drop 1.4 hours, as hourly earnings dropped 12 cents.

In the Non-Durable Goods Sector, Printing and Publishing had a longer scheduled workweek. Weekly earnings increased $26.75, weekly hours increased 1.7 hours and hourly earnings rose 4 cents. Other Non-Durable Goods' shorter workweek was the reason weekly earnings decreased $10.70 and weekly hours dropped 1.5 hours.

Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing
Washington Metropolitan Area
March 199i

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990
Total Manufacturing	503.42	493.06	489.46	38.4	38.4	39.6	13.11	12.84	12.36
Durable Goods	524.12	523.98	509.44	41.4	42.6	43.1	12.66	12.30	11.82
Stone Clay & Glass Products	490.44	492.13	547.80	40.2	41.6	49.8	12.20	11.83	11.00
Electric Machinery, Equipment & Supplies	495.87	502.07	458.05	41.6	41.7	42.1	11.92	12.04	10.88
Other Durable Goods	543.30	538.75	515.79	41.6	43.1	41.9	13.06	12.50	12.31
Non-Durable Goods	487.71	469.57	473.25	36.1	35.2	36.8	13.51	13.34	12.86
Food & Kindred Products	486.10	477.30	448.69	41.3	40.9	41.7	11.77	11.67	10.76
Printing & Publishing	523.25	496.50	492.80	35.0	33.3	35.0	14.95	14.91	14.08
Other Non-Durable Goods	367.58	378.28	404.21	37.7	39.2	41.8	9.75	9.65	9.67

Total Production Workers	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1991	Mar. 1990
	38,[illegible]	38,200	39,700

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